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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	:	10/678,044	Confirmation No.	: 6657
Applicant	:	Tadahiro ISHIZAKA, et al.		
Filed	:	October 3, 2003		
Docket No.	:	010986.52820US		
Customer No.	:	23911		
Title	:	Processing Apparatus		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R § § 1.97 AND 1.98

August 4, 2004

Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

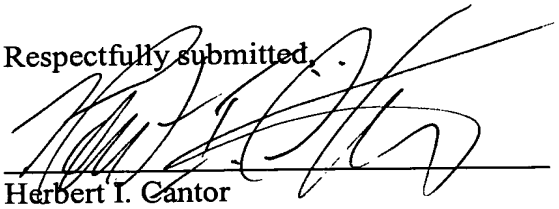
In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

English abstracts summarizing the disclosure of the Japanese publications are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/678,044
Filing Date	October 3, 2003
First Named Inventor	Tadahiro ISHIZAKA
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	010986.52820US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number-Kind Code[2] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
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		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3]–Number[4]–Kind Code[5] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
	AA	JP-03028377-A	02-06-1991	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP		AB
	AB	JP-2001214272-A	08-07-2001	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD		AB
	AC	WO-0215243-A1	02-21-2002	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD		AB
	AD	JP-2002151489-A	05-24-2002	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD ET AL.		AB

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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